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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/09719 (22) International Filing Date: 9 December 1999 (09.12.99) (30) Priority Data: 99200036.4 8 January 1999 (08.01.99) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): N.V. BEKAERT S.A. [BE/BE]; Bekaertstraat 2, B-8550 Zwevegem (BE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LONCKE, Jan [BE/BE]; Stedestraat 58, B-8550 Zwevegem (BE). VANDAMME, Johan [BE/BE]; Breeschoot 16, B-9800 Deinze (BE). (74) Agent: HEYDE, Katrien; 4011 - D.I.E., Bekaertstraat 2, B-8550 Zwevegem (BE).		(81) Designated States: JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: LAYERED FILTERING STRUCTURE <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> (57) Abstract <p>A layered filtering structure (10) comprises at least a first layer (12) and a second layer (13). Each layer comprises a web of metal fibers which has been sintered. The two layers (12, 13) are in contact with each other. The first layer, most close to the filter inlet side has a porosity below 55 %, and the second layer, closer to the filter outlet side has a porosity which is at least 20 % greater than the porosity of the first layer. The first layer is compacted in a separate manufacturing step. The layered filtering structure combines the advantage of a small filter rating with a low pressure drop.</p>		